GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5131
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
RESTORATION OF SANCTUARIES
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNESCO threatened to drop some of the sanctuaries in the country from its heritage list;

(b) if so, details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any direction to the State Governments for the restoration of these sanctuaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. However, out of the five natural Heritage Sites in India, Manas National Park is already in the category of 'Heritage Site in Danger' since 1992. It was placed in this category due to large scale disturbances and agitation during that period causing serious damage to the Park.The World Heritage Committee had also expressed serious concern over the situation resulting from inadequate availability of water to maintain the wetland ecosystem in Keoladeo National Park which is another World Heritage Site in India.

(c) & (d) The Union Government has been continuously in touch with both the State Governments, i.e, Assam with respect to Manas national Park and Rajasthan, with respect to Keoladeo National Park.The Ministry of Environment & Forests has been providing financial & technical assistance to the State Governments for the better management of these sites. Further,an UNESCO funded project has been launched in 2007, for better management at four natural world heritage sites in India including Manas & Keoladeo.

(e) Does not arise.